

December 2004

# **The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER**



**The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !**

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# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

Grindstone Lake has long been a gem, a treasure in the pines.

In the 1800's, as they first encountered the Ojibwa people of the area, European/American explorers knew Grindstone Lake which they referred to (with possible translation or spelling errors, they could have meant "gray lake") as "Lac du Gres" or "Lac Grit," and wrote of the beauty and bounty of the area's lakes and rivers.

Recognizing its attractions, one of the first-ever commercial resorts in Sawyer County existed on Grindstone Lake. Apparently, in 1888, F.D. Stone, the county sheriff opened the "Jericho Resort" on Grindstone Lake. To attract tourists, who he hauled out of Hayward via cart and wagon, he called his resort the "seaport on Grindstone." One of Sheriff Stone's entertainments was taking guests on rides through the Grindstone-Lac Courte Oreilles-Whitefish chain of lakes on a steamboat named the "Wauboose." Apparently the Jericho did good business, but it burned down in 1891, and was later replaced by the former Williams Resort. I don't know what became of the Wauboose.

I collect photos and post cards showing scenes of Grindstone Lake. While clothing, boats, vehicles, and certainly cabins have changed, the lake remains. All of this is a reminder to me that we were not here first to be living on the shores of Grindstone Lake, enjoying the bounty of the lake, and the pleasures of its scenery. It remains a big, quiet lake....a lake known for its beauty and water clarity.

As we enjoy this lake, it is important for us to remember that we are but stewards of the land and just as there were generations before us, there will be generations after us who can join us in our appreciation of this Northwoods treasure.

We are all responsible for the future of this lake, and your lakeshore association board takes our responsibility for leadership in this area very seriously. But, no one person can protect this lake. We can lead by example, but in the end it is a collective effort by all of us that will keep this gem of a lake as the treasure it is, now and for generations to come.

Bruce Miller

# Highlights of the 2004 GLA Annual Meeting

President Bruce Miller welcomed the members and introduced the Board members.

**Election of Directors:** President Miller thanked Jim Queenan and Mark Schmiel for board service. The nominating committee recommended incumbent members Marilyn Lundberg, Bill Miley and Camille Venners and new members Helen Chevrier and Larry Berg for board service. All were approved.

**Membership Report:** Cyndy MacIntosh reported that there were 113 registered members. There are 380 property owners around the lake. Last year there were 144 members at annual meeting time. (In September the membership was about 164.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Cyndy MacIntosh reported that the GLA has \$4,904.01 at this time. \$2,000 was pledged for a lake core study and \$2200 pledged for fish cribs.

**President's Report:** Bruce Miller reported that board is setting up regions around the lake to help with communication between the board and lake residents and membership and asked those interested to sign up. (Zone Captains are needed in 9 zones.)

**Sawyer County Shoreland Ordinance:** Bill Christman, Sawyer County Zoning Administrator explained the different features of the new ordinance. He indicated it better defines what can and can't be done. He stressed that vegetation at the shore filters the nutrients

and pollutants in the runoff, thus protecting lake quality.



## UPDATES

**Trash Dive** — Dave Mathies scheduled a trash dive near the channel area on July 13. Last year's dive was in Williams Bay and a lot of trash was collected. People were asked to help with the dive. (The dive took place and was a success.)

**Water Quality/Quantity Studies** — Dan Tyrolt reported that the high capacity well study has been completed and it indicated that the creek flow from the golf course and housing development would be reduced at most about 5 percent. This should not have a noticeable effect. He didn't expect the water quality to be affected. He also discussed a new core study on the lake. This study would determine changes in nutrients during the last 130 years, determine frequency of algal blooms and changes in macrophyte growth, and estimate major sources of increased nutrient input. It costs \$10,000 for the core and the GLA provided \$2,000

cost-share. (Information gleaned from the study will be provided at the 2005 annual meeting.)

**Fish Cribs Update** — Ray Moeller reported on changes to fish crib regulations. The DNR is requiring all new fish cribs be made from traditional log cribs, not the plastic cribs in use today. Ray indicated that GLA allocated \$2000 for fish cribs for this summer and up to \$200 for concrete for the cribs. Walleyes for Wisconsin and the tribe would also provide some matching funds. (Because of changes in regulations, the fish cribs did not go in the lake this year.)

**Computer Web Site** — Skip Brossard reported that the membership form and two newsletters are posted on the site. He is working with Computer Solutions to get the Bass Lake site recognized by various search engines.

**Cranberry Bog** — Ray Moeller indicated that the bog is still farmed. Apparently the developers are awaiting a DNR decision on their permit.

**Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust** — Ray indicated that in addition to obtaining land and easements in the area, the trust plans to monitor adherence to existing easement requirements. The first easement gathered by the Trust will be a property on Grindstone Lake.

**Trumpeter** — Camille Venners said she is resigning as editor, but would help someone else with the layout, since she has expensive software for it. (Ann Berg will help with the newsletter.)

**Bass Lake Issues** — Linn Newton reported that Bass Lake plans to use two grants and money from the transmission line to pay for costs for the new park on Grindstone. Three existing cabins will be torn down and a pavilion and baths will

be built. The township also instituted a new exhibition and race permit system that includes sailboat races. A new Northwoods Beach zoning study is underway that aims to address issues with the 30' by 100' lots and building by roads. Two court cases regarding zoning variances brought by Bass Lake against Sawyer County are still progressing.

**Fireworks** — President Miller indicated that the GLA board gave Rick Kramer \$500 for fireworks for the 4th of July.

**Picnic** — President Miller urged those attending the meeting to come to the picnic.

**Other business** — Problems launching a boat at the public boat landing and Swimmers Itch were discussed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Lundberg



# LAND TRUST NEWS —

## COUDERAY WATERS IN SECOND YEAR , SEEKS MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, Inc. — specifically created to benefit the Hayward area's lakes, forests and open spaces — has launched its second full year. The Trust, one of 52 similar conservation Trusts in Wisconsin, accepts appropriate legal duty, when requested by private landowners, to preserve and protect for all time the natural resources and beauty of the landowner's own property.

In its successful first year, the Trust aided the "Big Chip" Project's successful preservation of Big Timber Island and continues similar efforts to preserve the Moonshine Lake islands on the Chippewa Flowage. It has planned an educational series of environmental and conservation publications for public consumption and has started the required review and processing of conservation easements now being requested by numerous landowners.

The Trust seeks to increase its membership in order to better serve conservation interests in its focus area embraced by or adjacent to the Couderay River watershed. This territory includes a dozen or more major lakes such as Grindstone, Lac Courte Oreilles, Round, Windigo and Whitefish as well as Stone, Sand, Big Sissabagama and the Chippewa Flowage and the lands surrounding them. Since Couderay Waters is an IRS approved Sec. 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization, all membership dues and donations are tax deductible to its members.



Lake Association members, indeed, all thinking lake property owners, are interested in environmentally protecting their own property, and all owners benefit when neighbors preserve theirs. Thanks to your Lake Association, the Board of Couderay Waters has been given this opportunity to invite all lake property owners to become members of Couderay Waters. Anyone wanting to support this valuable conservation effort need only send their check for \$ 25.00, payable to Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, Inc., at Box 13097, Hayward, WI, 54843, and thus become an Individual / Family member. A larger membership donation is recognized as higher level participation and is additionally appreciated as it accelerates this important conservation work.

James Garvey  
President  
Couderay Waters Regional  
Land Trust, Inc.

# LAKE ZONE CAPTAINS

In an effort to increase speed of information dissemination and to welcome new homeowners and encourage them to join the Grindstone Lake Association, this past summer, the Board decided to try dividing the Lake into zones. For each of the areas, we'd like to have one more members as the Zone Captain(s) for the area.

Plainly stated, this job would include letting the Membership Chairman know when a home changes owners. Welcoming the new owners to the lake and providing an informational packet that the Board is putting together. Zone Captains, will be given information on any Board meetings and may choose to attend. They can also bring to the Board's attention, any problems in their area. Beyond these general guidelines, the Zone Captain may decide to do anything else to bring his/her area together and help them to know their neighbors, i.e. picnics, road clean up etc.

At the present time the lake has been divided into 9 zones. Some of these are either large numbers of houses or large geographically. Please let Linn Newton know if you are interested in helping with this project. You need not offer to do an entire zone, but you can offer to help in an area of the zone so that 2 or 3 people may share one area. The list below indicates the Zone regions, the Captain,

and contact information for the Captain. Several Zone Captains are still needed.

## Zone 1

Indian Drive and Lake Drive to Dixon  
Captain: Betty Foster  
bkboopsnv@aol.com

## Zone 2

Poplar From Dixon to the channel  
Captain: Shaun O'Meara  
Shaunomeara@hotmail.com

## Zone 3

Hwy K from the channel to Hwy E  
Captain:

## Zone 4

Hwy E to Brossard Rd  
Captain:

## Zone 5

Norwis Rd to Yopps  
Captain:

## Zone 6

Williams Resort Rd  
Captain: Bruce Paulsen  
BLPaulsen@msn.com

## Zone 7

Goss Rd  
Captain:

## Zone 8

Cranberry Marsh to Beckwith Rd  
Captain: Helen Chevrier  
Chevy66@centurytel.net

## Zone 9

Indian Drive to the Cranberry Marsh  
Captain:

## 2005 Membership Reminder

The GLA Board asks each of you to take a few minutes to renew your membership or become a member. The 2005 membership fee is \$25.00.

Check your mailing label to determine when your membership expires. A membership form is enclosed for property owners who have not made a 2005 membership commitment.

# “Lake Safe” Soaps

In late summer, a GLA member suggested that the GLA Board consider an article regarding “lake safe” soaps and shampoos for personal hygiene and canine bathing. The member desired brand names and product purchase resources, if possible. The path of this request and the final destination became an ongoing learning journey.

As expected, many companies were found to manufacture products that are considered to be biodegradable hygiene products for human and veterinary use. Finding products that met this criterion was not difficult. The difficulty arose when considering where the products were to be used and impact on waterways.

Educational efforts have made us aware of the importance of using biodegradable products. One thing to note is that biodegradable does not necessarily mean that the soap won't contribute nutrients (i.e. phosphorus) to the lake. If any soap is going to be used in or around the lake it is imperative that it doesn't contain ANY phosphorus as well as being biodegradable. It should also be noted that biodegradable products have less negative impact on our environment, but cannot be considered good for the environment.

During research of the topic, it became clear that even biodegradable soaps and shampoos are not intended for direct use in or near waterways, lakes, rivers and streams. In nearly every article, it was stressed that these products are considered to be unwelcome contaminants in our ground water and natural resource waters. Clean water groups, the Wisconsin DNR, and other resources kept reinforcing the point that no soap or detergent products, even biodegradable, are appropriate to bathe oneself or pets in lakes or other waterways of any type.

The REI wilderness outfitter website, offered the following information clearly and concisely:

## Multi-Purpose Soap

The cleaning agents you use in the wilderness must do more than simply keep you, your clothes and your dishes clean. They must also treat the environment kindly. REI carries a number of convenient, low-impact, multi-purpose soaps that can be used for bathing, washing clothes and cleaning dishes.

## Rules

- **Biodegradable soap is a must.** *Biodegradable soaps and detergents contain no toxic chemicals, and they break down into benign compounds when exposed to water.*
- **Controlled use is important.** *Even biodegradable soap will eventually pollute lakes and streams if it is not used sparingly. Be sure to limit your use.*
- **Location Counts!** *All washing and bathing, even with biodegradable soap, should be done at least 200 feet from all streams, lakes and other water sources to limit detergent and viral contamination of the water supply.*<sup>1</sup>



River Point Outfitting Co., a Boundary Waters outfitter in Ely, MN, stated this on their website in the section pertaining to BWCA Wilderness Rules and Regulations:

*Bathe and wash dishes at least 150 feet from lakes and streams. All soaps pollute water including soaps labeled "biodegradable."*<sup>2</sup>

Grindstone Lake is a natural resource that happens to be surrounded by extensive development including dwellings with septic systems, several small businesses, highly developed roadways, and other components that we refer to as civilization. While this differentiates it from the wilderness situations often cited in the research, we, as stewards, can maintain and perhaps improve the current quality of Grindstone Lake by complying with the same advisory rules as those stated for pristine wilderness settings. No second chances are available when it comes to preserving Wisconsin's lakes.

Within our lake association meetings, members have addressed concerns about fertilizers and other contaminants in the Grindstone Lake watershed, impervious surface runoff, eutrophication of the lake, and erosion to name a few. Keeping and using soaps of any type a safe distance from the lake is another area for us to focus our attention.

In conclusion, think about this alternative lake bathing suggestion from Algonquin Eco Watch, a non-profit charitable environmental protection organization dedicated to "assess, protect and sustain the Algonquin Ecosystem (Ontario, Canada) for the future".

*"Consider the lowly sponge! A natural "Loofah" sponge can be purchased in any drugstore for about the price of a cake of soap and can be re-used indefinitely. It is lighter than a cake of soap...Brisk rubbing with the sponge, followed by a dip in the lake, will remove dead skin, most of the "offensive" odour, and leave the body feeling tingly and clean – without adding manufactured chemical compounds to the lake."*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> REI renowned supplier of specialty outdoor gear and clothing, <http://www.rei.com/rei/learn/noDetail.jsp?URL=rei/learn/camp/campsuplf.jsp>

<sup>2</sup> River Point Outfitting Co., <http://www.elyoutfitters.com/rulesregs.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Algonquin Eco Watch, <http://www.algonquin-eco-watch.com/bathing.htm>

*Once again the GLA Board would like to recognize Herb Kieffer for his work designing the distinctive Grindstone Lake Association Trumpeter logo and graphic on the front cover.*

# “Lake Safe Soaps” Comments

First, certainly the process of washing ones hair, pits and pets adds to the ‘organic load’ of the lake. After all, the purpose of washing ones body is to remove the sweat, oils, skin cells, dead hair, etc. from the human or canine body. These organic body wastes add to the nutrient load of the lake and possibly increase the BOD (biological oxygen demand). Other organisms that may feed on these organic materials use oxygen in the process of breaking down the organic compounds. How much of a ‘organic load’ or BOD is there to the lake? Probably not enough to even measure in the whole scheme of things. Possibly there is a more local effect if a bunch of very dirty, sweaty folks and their human companions washed up at one time like a Woodstock concert and you happened to own property just down current from the washees.

Secondly, there is the issue of the cleansing agents. We are supposedly phosphorus-free when it comes to our clothes and dish-washing detergents. I’m not so sure that is the case when it comes to soaps and shampoos. Many have surfactants so they suds up easily – you’re supposed to assume the more sudsy you are the more clean you are becoming. The surfactants and possible phosphorus that the soap or shampoo MAY contain add to the nutrient load too.

When it comes to Fido, we may have more concern for the health of the lake. Some of Fido’s specialty shampoo may contain insecticide - for fighting those ticks and fleas. Insecticides are regulated under the US EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). You know those little warning

labels on the can of “Raid” or other insect repellants that say ‘any use other than described on this label is contrary to the law’? Well, that warning comes right from the FIFRA rule. If Fido’s tick/flea shampoo has restrictions that says don’t use near lakes, rivers or streams and somebody washes Fido in Grindstone, conceivably they are in violation of federal law. Common sense says that if the shampoo is going to kill pesky ticks and fleas, then shallow water environments are susceptible where frogs, minnows, etc. live.

Final comment? Hey, yes it is nice to commune with nature and maybe Mom and Dad used to wash up in the lake 40 years ago after a hard day clearing the lot. Today is different, the lakes are developed with cabins, modest homes, and mansions - all have running water and a tub or shower enclosure with a septic tank to handle the wastewater. Need to clean up Fido? Wash him down with a garden hose in the front yard and keep the water from getting into the lake.

Dave Katura  
DNR Water Specialist, Hayward, WI

## Park Names

Name suggestions for the new park on Grindstone Lake are being solicited by the Town of Bass Lake Board. If you have a name to nominate:

Contact Linn Newton  
715-634-6329  
newtonsl@centurytel.net

# Early Fish Crib

My brother, Steve Rabiega, and my dad, Joseph Rabiega, bought the former Valhalla Resort in 1948. My dad passed away that November at the Resort. Steve and I opened the Resort in 1949.

Steve and Bill Taylor started building fish cribs in the early 1950's. In winter, Steve and Bill would load his big truck with logs, rocks and brush. They would drive out onto the frozen lake and build the cribs on the ice. After they had wired the logs together, and strengthened them with metal rods, they filled them with rocks and brush. At this point, the DNR would come out and cut the ice to sink the cribs. These were very large cribs and were sunk in 12-15 feet depths.

When my husband, Vic Petty, retired from the U.S. Navy in 1959, he and I came to join Steve with operation of the resort. Vic, Steve, and Gene (whose last name I cannot remember) continued building cribs into the 1960's. These cribs were placed in both Grindstone and Lac Courte Oreilles. Our children, Mike Petty and Judy Albrecht, remember helping with this activity as youngsters.

Each spring, Steve would take a boat out onto the lake and tie empty bleach bottles to each of the cribs to mark the crib locations for Valhalla Resort guests. Of



course, this benefited other fishermen as well.

During those early years, I also remember the Log Cabin Store coming out onto the lake in winter months to cut ice for ice boxes in cabins.

*Representative photo located at Treeland Resorts website.*

Helen Rabiega Petty

## GLA Fish Crib Update

The Grindstone Lake Association has been actively placing cribs in Grindstone Lake since 1997. However, this activity was temporarily suspended in 2004.

New DNR regulations, dictated by Madison lawmakers, became effective during the planning process of this year's fish crib program. Sorting out the new processes and requirements took more time than anticipated.

In brief, the new regulations require

that fish cribs now be constructed of wood, either lumber or log similar to the type described in Helen Petty's early fish crib article. To continue placing the type of plastic crib structure the GLA had been using, a public notice and comment period is now required.

Now that the new regulations are better understood, we can plan our fish crib project to properly comply. The GLA Board hopes to resume placing fish cribs next summer.

# Bass Lake Camping Ordinance Reviewed, and Revised

Bass Lake Township was given 4 options by Sawyer County for camping on private property. In the spring, it was reported that Bass Lake had selected “Option 1” (the most restrictive) for their camping ordinance. At the September meeting, this decision was reviewed and the township board approved “Option 3” of the possible choices.

In a nutshell, this option provides that a lot containing a dwelling may have up to two camping vehicles/trailers stored on the land and may have overnight guests up to 14 days per calendar year. Additionally, for special events such as family reunions and holiday weekends,

up to 5 vehicles/recreational equipment will be allowed up to 7 days per calendar year.

For vacant lots that do not contain a dwelling and do not front navigable public waters, camping is allowed for up to 14 days per calendar year. One campsite per lot is allowed, and currently licensed camping equipment should be parked unobtrusively and screened from roads/neighbors by vegetation. Further, a property (fire number) sign is required, and sanitation requirements should be followed.

Ann Berg

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## State of Wisconsin Exemption Checklist - Fish Habitat Tree Drop

*The LCO Tribe is encouraging tree drops to improve fish habitat. If an Act of God drops a tree into the lake, leaving it in place is advised. Wisconsin DNR regulations do allow purposeful tree drops in specific instances both with and without permits.*

Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under Chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes. Using this checklist, you can determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed **tree drop** is eligible for an exemption if your project will meet all the following conditions:

- The tree drop may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) – see the Designated Waters Search on our website to determine if your waterway is an ASNRI or has another special designation.
- The tree drop may be placed and

maintained only by a riparian.

- The tree drop shall be placed entirely within the riparian's zone of interest.
- The tree drop must be placed solely for the purpose of improving fish habitat.

The riparian shall report the placement of the structure to the local department fisheries biologist within 30 days after placement. The report shall contain a description of the project and its purpose, the name of the waterway and a map showing where the structure was placed.

A deposit of sand, gravel or stone

may be associated with the placement of a tree drop provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.

Dredging is not allowed for the placement of a tree drop.

Tree drops may only be placed in lakes or flowages.

Tree drops shall use live trees having a minimum diameter of 12 inches at the base.

Tree drops shall be securely anchored to the shore.

Note: Local zoning ordinances may place restrictions on cutting trees in the shoreland zone. The riparian is responsible for ensuring that their tree drop project is

in compliance with any local zoning requirements.

If your project does not meet all of these conditions, submit a permit application to the Department.

If you have any questions about whether you meet these conditions, you may request an Exemption Determination from DNR. Simply obtain Form 3500-107, "Chapter 30 Exemption Determination Request" from a DNR service center, or download it from our website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) under the topic "Waterway and Wetland Permits." Complete the form and submit it to the DNR office identified on the form.

WI Department of Natural Resources  
5/2004

# GRINDSTONE LAKE T-SHIRTS

A limited number of Grindstone Lake shirts are still available. They are available in both the small crest or large logo in both green or blue.

If you wish to order one, call Linn Newton 715-634-6329, or email [newtonsl@centurytel.net](mailto:newtonsl@centurytel.net) to check on size and color.

The cost is \$12 for sizes Small – XLarge. XXL is \$14, XXXL \$15.



# Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME TBA SOCIAL TIME TIME TBA BASS LAKE TOWN HALL AND/OR FIRE STATION
JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME TBA BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)
TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)	FISH CRIBS, LAKE TRASH DIVE

# 2004 Annual Picnic

This year, the GLA Annual Picnic was a pig roast immediately following the Annual Meeting. The pig was superbly prepared by GLA member, Ron Tenney. Chuck Newton, Chris Clauson, and Ray Moeller assisted Ron as he started the process in the wee hours of the morning on the day of the picnic. While members mingled awaiting presentation of the pig, children participated in a fly casting contest as the aroma heightened everyone's appetite. Our expectations were rewarded when the savory, moist morsels were served. The Bass Lake Town Hall location offered shade to the crowd as they enjoyed the meal. The pig roast was such a success, the GLA Board unanimously decided to repeat the pig roast at next year's picnic. A hearty thank you to Ron, his wife, Kathy, Chuck, Chris, and Ray for a marvelous meal!



**The Chef**

**The Food**





## Talk & Play



## Sun & Fun



# Swimmer's Itch Efforts

*At the GLA Annual Meeting concerns were raised about Swimmer's Itch problems in Grindstone Lake. The GLA referred this concern to the Sawyer County Lakes Forum due to it's impact on many area lakes. Several area residents have independently funded an assessment on Grindstone Lake to explore a theory that diverges from that of the CDC and asserts that Swimmer's Itch parasite is carried predominantly by Merganser ducks.*

In July 2004, Grindstone Lake was assessed for swimmer's itch, by SIcon, L.L.C. (Dr. Harvey Blankespoor). Two Grindstone Lake residents privately funded this initial assessment.

Background: Swimmer's Itch is a delayed hypersensitivity response by some individuals to cercariae of non-human schistomes. The life cycle of these microscopic flatworms (cercariae) involves an aquatic snail and an aquatic bird, often a duck. In layman's terms, as the duck feeds, its digestive system is infected, when the duck defecates, the defecation is picked up by the snail, which incubates the flatworm. The flatworm is then released into the water by the snail and "burrows" into the pores of the skin of a swimmer. The flatworm causes the itch (delayed response).

Assessment Results: The initial assessment found the infection in a Merganser duck and the Stagnicola emarginata snail. Mallard ducks were also tested and were not infected. The testing found one infected duck and a low percentage of snails infected. There is a link between Merganser ducks and the S. emarginata snails in Grindstone Lake. Water Quality experts from the Wisconsin DNR have reviewed the report, and a link was acknowledged, but a more complete study was recommended, as the infection may be harbored by other aquatic species as well. GLA is currently working with the Sawyer County Lakes forum to initiate such a study. Since swimmers itch is

common to many area lakes, the results of this study would be beneficial to the entire area. We are searching for a simple method to disrupt the life cycle, and eliminate the itch from the lake. Additional updates will be published as information is gathered.

Interim recommendations: What can we do in the meantime? SIcon's assessment recommends removing the Merganser broods from the lake to break the cycle. While trapping and removing the ducks is an expensive undertaking and requires a state license, preventing the ducks from nesting also discourages their presence.

The following preventative measures are also recommended: Applying sunscreen or baby oil before going in the lake, Ken-Tox, is the choice as a topical cream used for swimmer's itch in Michigan. It is a non-prescription cream containing lidocaine. Also select swimming sites away from shore or beaches where the itch is not a problem. The most severe cases of swimmer's itch often occur on beaches with an onshore wind where individuals stay in shallow water for extended periods of time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Skip Brossard

As study continues, further information will be provided in future newsletters.



# Center for Disease Control (CDC) Swimmer's Itch Data

*Current accepted research indicates that the cause of Swimmer's Itch includes many waterfowl and is not isolated to Merganser ducks. The following information is quoted from a Fact Sheet on Swimmer's Itch written by the CDC. To view the complete fact sheet go to the CDC website [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/schistosomiasis/factsht\\_cardmermatitis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/schistosomiasis/factsht_cardmermatitis.htm)*

## WHAT IS SWIMMER'S ITCH?

Swimmer's itch, also called cercarial dermatitis, is a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to infection with certain parasites of birds and mammals. These microscopic parasites are released from infected snails to swim in fresh and salt water, such as lakes, ponds, and oceans used for swimming and wading. Infection is found throughout the world. Swimmer's itch generally occurs during summer months.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

Within minutes to days after swimming in contaminated water, you may experience tingling, burning, or itching of the skin. Small reddish pimples appear within 12 hours. Pimples may develop into small blisters. Itching may last up to a week or more, but will gradually go away.

Because swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to infection, the more often you swim or wade in contaminated water, the more likely you are to develop more serious symptoms. The greater the number of exposures to contaminated water, the more intense and immediate symptoms of swimmer's itch will be.

Be aware that there are other causes of rash that may occur after swimming in fresh and salt water.

## DO I NEED TO SEE MY HEALTH

## CARE PROVIDER FOR TREATMENT?

No. Most cases do not require medical attention.

If you have a rash, you may try the following for relief:

- corticosteroid cream
- cool compresses
- bath with baking soda
- baking soda paste to the rash
- anti-itch lotion
- Calamine\* lotion
- colloidal oat meal baths, such as Aveeno\*

Try not to scratch. Scratching may cause the rash to become infected. If itching is severe, your health care provider may prescribe lotion or creams to lessen your symptoms.

## HOW DOES WATER BECOME INFESTED WITH THE PARASITE?

The adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, as well as certain aquatic mammals such as muskrats and beavers. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of infected birds or mammals.

If the eggs land in the water, the water becomes contaminated. Eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail.

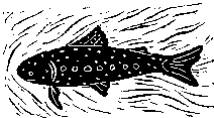
If the larvae find one of these snails, they infect the snail and undergo further

development. Infected snails release a different type of larvae (cercariae, hence the name cercarial dermatitis) into the water. This larval form then searches for a suitable host (bird, muskrat) so they can start the life cycle over again. Although humans are not a suitable host, the larvae burrow into the skin of swimmers, which may cause an allergic reaction/rash. The larvae cannot develop inside a human and they soon die.

### WHO IS AT RISK FOR SWIMMER'S ITCH?

Anyone who swims or wades in infested water may be at risk. Larvae are more likely to be swimming along shallow water by the shoreline. Children are most often affected because they swim, wade, and play in the shallow water more than adults. Also, they do not towel dry themselves when leaving the water.

### ONCE AN OUTBREAK OF SWIMMER'S ITCH HAS OCCURRED



#### Fishing

When I go fishing  
I'm always wishing  
Some fish will be my prize;  
But while I'm fishing,  
The fish are wishing  
Otherwise.

And all the wishes  
Of all the fishes  
Seem always to come true;  
So all my wishes  
To catch some fishes  
Never do.

Author Unknown

### IN WATER, WILL THE WATER ALWAYS BE UNSAFE?

No. Many factors must be present for swimmer's itch to become a problem in water. Since these factors change (sometimes within a swim season), swimmer's itch will not always be a problem. However, there is no way to know how long water may be unsafe. Larvae are generally infective for 24 hours once they are released from the snail. However, an infected snail will continue to produce cercariae throughout the remainder of its life. For future snails to become infected, migratory birds or mammals in the area must also be infected so the life cycle can continue.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

- Avoid swimming in areas where swimmer's itch is a known problem or where signs have been posted warning of unsafe water.
- Avoid swimming near or wading in marshy areas where snails are commonly found.
- Towel dry or shower immediately after leaving the water.
- Encourage health officials to post signs on shorelines where swimmer's itch is a current problem.
- Do not attract birds by feeding them to areas where people are swimming.

Ole and Swen was out swimmin'  
in da flowage, and Ole said, "Swen,  
get out of the water, a big fish just  
bit my toe."

"Which one?", asked Swen.

"I don't know, Swen, dose  
muskies all look alike to me!"

# Relocating Bats

## Assets in the Wild, but Unwelcome Cabin Guests



August brought cool temperatures that kept us indoors a bit more than usual. One day my husband noted new sounds in the screen porch. Investigation suggested that a few bats had taken up residence between the attic vent and the screening behind it. To confirm this, one evening we bundled up and sat out on the deck at dusk, eyes trained on the gable vent. Our vigil confirmed our suspicions as we watched two bats emerge from the vent.

Having no experience with bats, we turned to the Internet for immediate information to help us plan our bat relocation efforts. Perhaps the information we gathered may assist other members.

Keeping bats from sharing your dwelling requires preventative measures to keep them out. Observing the status of your cabin exterior is the best way to prevent bats from becoming unwelcome guests. Remember that bats are small and, like mice, can enter through very small openings. If your cabin structure is in good repair and small problems attended to, you will be less likely to acquire bats as guests. (A poorly constructed vent caused our problem.)

Once present, the long term eviction of bats is a more complex task. Care must be taken to exclude the bats from entering but not prohibit them from leaving. This may require patience and planning.

### Step 1: Identify Entry

- Method 1 - Watch the exterior of your cabin at dusk to see if any bats

emerge.

- Method 2 - Observe the possible roosting place from the interior during the day, looking for daylight leaking in through a hole.

- Method 3 - After dark, flood the possible roosting area with bright light and check the cabin exterior for light leaks.

### Step 2: Patience

- You must wait until the bats have left to seal the entry points.

- The holes must not be sealed until all bats have departed.

- Wait until late July at the earliest so bat offspring are able to fly.

- Delaying until September or October when bats have left for winter hibernation is advised.

### Step 3: Implement Eviction

- Securely attach fine netting (1.6 inch or smaller) over each entry point along the top and sides. Netting should extend about a foot on either side of the entry and 18-24 inches below the bottom edge of the entry. Leave the bottom edge of the netting dangling free so bats leaving can find their way out through the bottom opening.

- After several days, the holes may be permanently sealed by caulking, steel wool or wood strips.

- Consider erecting a bat house to encourage bats to take up residence in a nearby location other than your cabin.

Camille Venners

# 2nd Annual Grindstone Lake Trash Dive

The 2nd Annual Trash Dive occurred on July 13 this past summer. Once again, Dave Mathies from the Dive Shop organized a group of divers to participate in this event. The Grindstone Lake Association is fortunate to have this group committed to assist our environmental efforts.

The day was definitely a challenge with gray skies and extremely rough water. Lake residents Skip Brossard, Don MacIntosh, Bruce Miller and Bill Miley were on hand with boats to assist divers. Handling the boats as they assisted divers was difficult at best. This year the divers focused on the area to the west of the



good dive training. Most practice situations tend to be in moderate weather conditions. However, area divers are frequently called on to assist the County Sheriff in rescue and recovery situations where good weather conditions are rare. So this was a beneficial practice opportunity for the divers.



Lac Courte Oreilles channel.

Trash recovered from the bottom of that area of the lake was much less than the divers found in last year's dive. While seeing heaps of trash removed from the lake is satisfying, it is good news to find lesser quantities of offending items in the lake.

From the divers' perspective, the adverse conditions were considered to be



Many thanks to the divers who volunteered in this effort and to the GLA members who were on hand to assist! We encourage more people to become involved in next year's trash dive or other GLA events.